

Message Text

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47

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 L-03 SCA-01 SS-20 NSC-07 PRS-01

H-03 SAJ-01 SP-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01

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R 251358Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8231

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD BY POUCH

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UR CASC

SUBJECT: INCIDENT IN SUKHUMI

REF: MOSCOW 5701

1. CONSOFF DELIVERED NOTE APRIL 25 TO MFA CONSULAR ADMINISTRATION (CHERNIGOV) ON SUBJECT OF DISAPPEARANCE OF AMCIT FRIEDMAN'S PERSONAL PROPERTY APRIL 15 IN SUKHUMI AND SUBSEQUENT POLICE INVESTIGATION CONDUCTED IN PRO FORMA MANNER. NOTE REQUESTED MFA TO INTERCEDE WITH SUKHUMI AUTHORITIES TO OBTAIN FULL INVESTIGATION AND RETURN OF PROPERTY. NOTE ALSO CALLED MFA'S ATTENTION TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES' REFUSALS TO CONNECT FRIEDMAN WITH EMBASSY, ACTION WHICH AMOUNTED TO VIOLATION OF "ACCESS" PROVISION OF ARTICLE 12(1) OF US-USSR CONSULAR CONVENTION. (COPY OF NOTE POUCHED EUR/SOV).

2. IN REPLY CHERNIGOV SAID HE WAS NOT ACQUAINTED WITH INCIDENT BUT REJECTED ANY SUGGESTION THAT PROPERTY'S DISAPPEARANCE WAS NOT RESULT OF GENUINE THEFT. SUCH THEFTS OCCUR IN THE CAUCASUS, FOR "CUSTOMS ARE DIFFERENT" THERE. HE CONTINUED: "IT IS POSSIBLE AMERICAN TOURIST REACHED WRONG CONCLUSION ABOUT DIAPPEARANCE OF PROPERTY BECAUSE SHE DOESN'T KNOW THESE PEOPLE. IF YOU ASK SOME RUSSIANS ABOUT CAUCASIANS, THEY WOULD

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SAY THEY ROB AND RAPE." CHERNIGOV, WHO SEEMED WILLING TO TALK

AT LENGTH ABOUT DEFECTS OF CAUCASIAN PEOPLES, AGREED THAT
BEST APPROACH IS TO FORWARD SUMMARY OF NOTE TO SUKHUMI
AUTHORITIES FOR THEIR REPORT.

3. ON QUESTION OF APPLICABILITY OF ARTICLE 12 TO INCIDENT,
CHERNIGOV EXPRESSED DOUBTS ABOUT FRIEDMAN'S DESCRIPTION OF HER
EFFEORTS TO REACH EMBASSY BUT SEEMED TO ACCEPT ARGUMENT THAT
LOCAL SOVIET AUTHORITIES HAVE RESPONSIBILITY IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES
TO CONNECT AMCIT PROMPTLY TO EMBASSY.
STOESSEL

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 25 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
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30 JUN 2005

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TAGS: CASC, UR, (FRIDEMAN, BETH)
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